

Biographic Sketch

Lloyd O. Pierson

President and Chief Executive Officer, United States African Development Foundation

Current and Past Employment

On October 3, 2007, Mr. Pierson was appointed to his current position -- as President and CEO of the U.S. African Development Foundation -- by the Board of Directors of the United States African Development Foundation. USADF is an independent foreign assistance arm of the United States Government, providing economic development aide to marginalized and underserved populations in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on conflict- and post-conflict areas. Its Board is comprised of 7 members who are appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Under Lloyd's leadership, USADF has had two record-high years of awarding grants (highest dollar value of grants awarded in a fiscal year) in FY 2009 and FY 2011, and has led the Agency to increase its new program funding by up to 50% more each year than in 2007. Concurrently, administrative costs and processing times have been reduced, and the speed of disbursements of grant funding increased dramatically. The mission of the Agency is clear and supported by staff in Washington, D.C. and African staff and implementing partners in Africa.

Prior to joining USADF, Lloyd worked as the International Policy Advisory for the Save Darfur Coalition. In that position, and afterwards, he has testified before the U.S. Congress on African political and economic issues, including matters involving regional economic institutions, Angola, Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

Previously, from December 2004 to the summer of 2006, he served as the Assistant Administrator for Africa at USAID, a Senate-confirmed, Presidential appointment. Prior to that, Lloyd Pierson was Chief of Staff/ Chief of Operations for the Peace Corps. During his tenure, volunteers serving overseas increased by 20%. He was responsible for operations of programs abroad, headquarters staff, 11 regional recruiting stations, and over 8,000 volunteers serving abroad. From September 2001 to 2002, he was named Acting Deputy Director with overall agency management responsibilities, including for the Africa bureau.

In the mid-1980s and early 1990s, he served in Africa as the Peace Corps's Country Director, managing programs in Ghana, Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland. He negotiated bilateral agreements for Peace Corps programs in Zimbabwe and Namibia. Returning to Washington, he served as Associate Director in the Peace Corps Director's Office.

From 1994 to 2001, Mr. Pierson was Director of the Africa division of the International Republican Institute (IRI), a non-profit organization working to advance good governance and democracy overseas.

With IRI, he worked directly with parliamentarians and opposition leaders who eventually were voted into or nominated for office, including in Angola, Kenya, Namibia, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe.

He worked from 1982 – 84 as Staff Associate on the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. Prior to that, he served as Administrative Assistant for Congressmen Mickey Edwards (R-TX) and Bill Archer (R-TX).

Awards and Honorifics

Lloyd has travelled far and wide in Africa since the 1980s, meeting people in villages and better understanding how people live and work in the countries he has served. In Ghana, in the early 1980s, when formal relations between the two governments were tense, Lloyd was invited to one distant village hosting a Peace Corps volunteer. The elders proudly presented him with a canvas painting of an American flag, red, white and blue, but with an unusual number of stars and stripes. The people there were so pleased to have this connection to the United States, they painted this flag as best as they could recollect. To this day, Lloyd has this artwork in his office, as a representation of his connection to the people of Africa.

Also in Ghana, on May 14, 1985, Mr. Pierson was “enstooled” as an elder chief and member of the Ben Kumhene’s Council of Elders. With the stool name of Nana Antwi Kwasi, he was proclaimed a Gyasweahene of Fanteakwa. He is one of the few U.S. government officials elected as an African elder because of his selfless work to improve the quality of life and traditions in remote areas.

In November 2001, Mr. Pierson was selected to represent the U.S. in addressing a plenary session of the United Nations during the concluding session of the International Year of the Volunteer.

Representing the United States, he has taken part in the open session of the United Nations General Assembly, in the official delegations for Presidential inaugurations and negotiations in Liberia, the Congo River Basin, and the South African Development Community.

The Office of Personnel Management honored Lloyd as a member of the Senior Foreign Service in 2002.

Lloyd is a graduate of the University of Houston. He has completed additional studies at the South Texas College of Law and at Lamar University. His heart is in Africa and in Texas, where his 3 sons currently reside.